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Profiles

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Profile of Jessica LaBrie

Jessica LaBrie is the librarian for the Boston Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Because the 2017 Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana was her first NASIG Conference, so I reached out to Jessica for her perspective. Our interview was completed on Wednesday, August 16 by e-mail.



Photo Courtesy of Jessica LaBrie

How did you decide to become a librarian?

For most of my time as an undergrad, I worked in the physical sciences library at my college. I really enjoyed working there, and the staff gave me opportunities to work on projects that introduced me to some aspects of librarianship. Also, I've always been passionate about science, but I majored in linguistics and anthropology, and librarianship seemed like a great way to support people doing scientific work (and to get to learn some interesting science at the same time), rather than doing the science myself.

What was it like serving as a library intern to the Environmental Protection Agency?

The internship program at the EPA Library was great because it was structured in rotations doing various types of library work. This allowed me to maximize my relatively short time doing internships in grad school, since I was able to "sample" different aspects of library work. I completed rotations in reference, interlibrary loan, and serials. Working as the serials intern, along with taking an excellent serials management course taught by NASIG member Rebecca Goldfinger, fostered my strong interest in serials and e-resources management.

What led you to become a medical librarian?

After grad school, I was looking for a job in an academic or special library, ideally in the sciences. When I read the description for the librarian position at Boston Children's Hospital, I thought it sounded similar to what I'd done in my internship, but at a professional level.

The Medical Library is small (it was a two-librarian team when I started and we have three librarians now), so the position necessarily includes a variety of responsibilities: reference, e-resources management, interlibrary loan, cataloging, and more are all part of my day-to-day work. The position was advertised as “electronic resources librarian” and that is indeed the main focus of my job, but we all do a little bit of everything at our library.

How did you learn about NASIG?

I heard of NASIG during grad school and have been interested in attending the conference ever since. This ended up being the lucky year!

Your first NASIG conference was in Indianapolis in 2017. How was your experience as a “first timer?”

It was very positive. I really appreciated the structured yet casual style of the conference. I didn’t get

“conference fatigue,” which I think is at least partly attributable to that style. As a first timer, I felt very welcome. From the first timer reception, to being asked by multiple people for my thoughts on the conference as a first timer, it really shows that NASIG values first-time attendees and wants to welcome them to the organization.

Would you come back again for future conferences?

Absolutely. My experience at NASIG 2017 was very valuable, so I definitely would like to attend again.

Do you have any additional comments?

Nope. Thanks for interviewing me!